

**State Advisory Committee (SAC) For Children with Disabilities**  
**Advising the NH Department of Education Per RSA 186-C:3-b**  
**Minutes for the Annual SAC Retreat on September 11, 2013**  
**Plymouth State University ~ Concord Campus**  
**9:00am – 2:30 pm**

**Members In attendance:** Renea Sparks, Bonnie Dunham, Joan Holleran, Mike Pinard, Janet Reed, Audrey Burke, Candace Cole-McCrea, Representative Rick Ladd, Denise Maher, Maureen Tracey, Kerri Lynn Kimner, John Jackson, Sue Marcotte-Jenkins, Kestrel Cole-McCrae, Dick Cohen, Sarah Cooley, Cheryl Paquette, Heather Worthen.

**Guests:** Maryellen Pantazis, Director of Special Education, Santina Thibedeau, Mary Steady, Ruth Littlefield, McKenzie Harrington-Bacote, Mary Lane (all Bureau of Special Education Staff), Christine Lachance from Easter Seals, Thomas Grinley, a parent.

**Agenda Item I:** Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Day.

- Bonnie Dunham, opened the meeting at 9:12am with introductions of members and guests, with an overview of the day's agenda.
- To begin the meeting, Renea Sparks led the group in an "Icebreaker Activity".

**Agenda Item II:** Approval of Minutes, Correspondence, Announcements, Public Comment.

- There was not a quorum of members at the June meeting and voting of the chairman and past meeting minutes did not occur. The following motions were made for *approval of the meeting minutes*;
  - A motion was made by Janet Reed to approve the *April* minutes, and Bonnie Dunham seconded the motion. All were in favor with five abstentions.
  - A motion was made by Candace Cole-McCrea to approve the *May* minutes and Janet Reed seconded the motion. All were in favor with two abstentions.
  - A motion was made by Candace Cole-McCrea to approve the *June* minutes with the correction on page 2 to read: "*Renea comments that, the 5.2 budget cuts will directly affect district staff cuts, so that services will be difficult to be provided according to the students IEPs*", Maureen Tracey seconded the motion. All in favor with three abstentions.
- *Voting of chairman*; Dick Cohen nominated Bonnie Dunham for chairman for the 2013-2014 year. Bonnie accepted the nomination. Candace Cole-McCrea nominated Maureen Tracey for chairman, Maureen declined. All were in favor to have Bonnie Dunham as chairman for the 2013-2014 year, and Maureen agreed to be vice chairman, at Bonnie's request.

- *New Membership nominations:* The following were nominated to become SAC members; Maryellen Pantazis, special education director who will represent a local education official for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and Jeanne Saunders to represent a special education teacher. Renea Sparks made a motion to approve the nominations. Janet Reed seconded the motions. All in favor of the new member nominations.
- *Correspondence:* The NH DD Council invites SAC members to attend their Special Education ad hoc committee meeting on 9/26 at 9:00am with a focus on transition.
- *Legislative Update:* Bonnie Dunham reviewed the handout of *Initial Proposals for Rulemaking*.
  - The minimum standards public forums have been held. The Merrimack Forum will be held on October 24.
  - Santina Thibedeau of the special education bureau, commented on Medicaid rules and a change with the consent piece. IDEA made a change that anytime a service was changed, an annual one time consent would be done.
  - Representative Rick Ladd is a member of JLCAR – he will be helpful in interpreting rule making.
- Santina reviewed some of the legislative pieces relating to special education and how to submit comment; either verbally or by email. Comments made are generally from a personal representation, not as SAC member.
- *Announcements:* The Parent Information Center (PIC) is moving to the building behind the current building that they are in.
- *Public comment:* There is no public comment.
  - Bonnie Dunham clarified that SAC members can comment personally in the public comment time.

### **Agenda Item III:** Recap of last year (including input from subcommittee/liaisons)

Members formed three groups where they discussed last year's highlights and answering these questions:

- What did we accomplish?
- What did we learn?
- What challenges did we encounter?
- What is the status of our priorities from last year?

*Group 1 feedback ~ Maureen Tracey spokesperson:*

Group 1 felt that SAC worked well on transition; identifying where areas were, making connections to what is happening, bridging connections. The May 1<sup>st</sup> event with legislators; the mini clips were good, the movie was late in the day, a suggestion was to show it earlier in the day. It was suggested to put the focus and priority areas in legislation with multi-tiered support, failed implementation of IEPs with online guidance and responding with one central place.

*Group 2 Feedback – Mary Ellen Pantazis*

The luncheon with legislators was valuable. Highlight of accomplishments included letter sent from SAC about sequestration with their recommendation, meeting with ABLE and schools. The group has concerns with incarcerated areas-need more discussion on this. They questioned if unmet needs have been met? Reminder that in discussions, everyone's perspective is important.

*Group 3 Feedback – Bonnie Dunham*

The meeting norms are more accessible to members. There has been increased public comment at SAC meetings. The letter about sequestration was well done. There was SAC participation with the NHASEA group, with Data Driven Enterprises and representation on the Indicator 8 group. Subcommittees did not always have time to meet, but subcommittees worked well together and agreed to disagree and be respectful. Members participated in a "flash mob" in mental awareness. SAC provided "Who Cares About Kelsey" DVD to legislative members and SAC members, and fed the Friendly Kitchen in Concord with the remaining food from the legislative event. The biggest challenge was getting the word out about SAC.

The Annual report will be out at next meeting.

**Agenda Item IV: State of the State Report/Update from the Bureau of Special Education:**

- *Bureau staff gave three presentations:*
  - Mary Steady presented on: Next Steps NH: College, Career and Life Readiness
  - Ruth Littlefield presented on the SPP
  - McKenzie Harrington & Santina Thibedeau presented on the NH ESEA Flexibility Waiver
- OSEP Conference: Bonnie Dunham was invited and attended the OSEP conference and gave feedback at the meeting.
- There is a new DOE initiative. Santina explained NECAP is being replaced with "Smarter Balanced" assessment system.

## **Agenda Item V: List of Priority Issues for this year**

Suggestion of Priority Issues for this year:

1. PBIS/Behavior MH
2. Common Core Standards
3. Special Ed Financing/Cat aid/building aid/ charter schools/lack of funding/funding mechanism/Rep. Rick Ladd put in bill for 100 % entitlement for Cat aid. Suspension/expulsion
4. Transitions-college/secondary
5. Extra curricular activities/lre
6. Restraint and seclusion and pbis
7. Incarcerated youth/age/unique id number
8. Common core
9. Effective user/doe complaint user system

The chosen subcommittees will be:

1. Cat aid/special education funding
2. Behavioral mental health~ restraint and seclusion
3. Effectiveness of DOE complaint user system
4. Transition

John Jackson and Cheryl Pacquette volunteered to be liaisons for Rep. Rick Ladd.

Volunteers for this year's subcommittees:

Group 1: Renea

Group 2: Bonnie, Audrey, Dick, Cheryl

Groups 3: Dick, Kerry lynn, John, Mike, Maureen

Group 4: Joan, Kestrel, Janet, Denise

## **Agenda Item VI: Old business/New Business/Public Comment**

- Diana Petschauer will possible present in December on Read and Write Gold.
- There is no new business
- No public comment

**Agenda Item VII:** The four subcommittees (from last year) met and reported out:

- **(Insert reports)**
- Subcommittees will meet at each meeting at the beginning.
- It was suggested to have a chair for each subcommittee.

**Agenda Item VIII:** Adjournment

- Maureen Tracey made a motion to adjourn, and Audrey Burke seconded.

All in favor.